MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*) : In one lump.

Labour Strikes.

132. *MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the frequent labour strikes that take place in the various coir factories at Alleppey and in other factories in the State; and

(*b*) if so, whether they have taken any and what steps to prevent such unpleasant incidents?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer furnished to interpellation No. 320 asked by Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai published in the proceedings of the Assembly, dated the 28th May 1934.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know from the member whether they are now considering any scheme of labour legislation, whether they have in hand any measure of labour legislation?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): None.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know the reasou?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The need is not felt.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know from the member whether the Government are aware that some kind of labour legislation will remedy the constant labour strikes?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion.

Productive Industries.

133. *MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take for encouraging and increasing productive industries in the State?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): The opening of a Rubber Factory at Trivandrum has been sanctioned. The buildings for the factory are nearing completion and the required machinery has been ordered for, and it is expected that the factory will commence work from March next. A Government Trade Agent has been appointed to find out markets for the Travancore products. A scheme for starting a China clay refining factory and another for the establishment of a porcelain factory in the State are under the consideration of Government. It is arranged to conduct a survey of cottage industries in the State and the Director of Industries has been asked to submit a detailed scheme for the same. With the completion of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electro Scheme, when cheap electric power will be available, several other industries will crop up.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): With regard to the sentence occuring in the reply "A Government Trade Agent has been

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[Mr. E.V. Krishna Pillai]

appointed to find out markets for the Travancore products", will the Government be pleased to state the qualifications of the imcumbent?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): He is a business man. The incumbent is a qualified Trade Agent and he was in charge of certain industrial concerns in Bombay and he is an M. A.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know what was the industry he was in charge of?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Cotton trade.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether this place was advertised before this gentleman was appointed?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): No.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know why the Government did not deem it necessary to advertise the place before somebody was appointed?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): I claim notice.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know from the member the grounds on which Government came to the conclusion that this individual was the proper man to be appointed as our Trade Agent?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): On account of his previous experience in business.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to give the House a summary of the experiences that Government thought he had when they appointed him?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): He was with a firm of colour merchants and afterwards he was in charge of the cotton trade.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know from the member whether Government took the trouble of referring to the firm just now menfioned with regard to the experiences of this man?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Government had sufficient information about his experience.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILKAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know the source from which the Government gathered information about this man?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): From his application; and we found out that his statements in the application were correct.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Can it be taken by the House that Government did not make any enquiry beyond accepting what was found in his application?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): No.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Coming to the other part of his work, can the member give us any idea as to what this particular Trade Agent has done in finding out markets for the Travancore products and whether he puts himself in communication with any merchants in Travancore?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Does that question arise here, Sir.? There is another interpellation with regard to the working of the Trade Agent.

PRESIDENT: The question is whether the Trade Agent has do anything to improve the trade conditions of the country by putting himself in communication with the merchants and getting orders.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Yes, Sir.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state the names of at least 3 merchants with whom he put himself in communication?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Messrs. Anderson, Co. of Quilon, the Alleppey Co./Ltd., and Sri Krishna Vilasom Coir Works of Paravoor.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know from the member whether he is authorised to put himself under contract or is he doing it with the sanction of Government?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): He is authorised to enter into contracts.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Will the member be pleased to state whether he has been able to find out any market for any of the Travancore products since he was appointed and, if so, the name of the products and the markets?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): He has reported that he has found out a market for the cashew-nuts and the coir mats and mattings and some other articles like ivory and other things. He is also trying to introduce pepper and other articles in Calcutta and other places.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Was the Government satisfied with his report that it served any purpose either to the Travancore Government or any Travancore merchant in augmenting the prevalence of these articles mentioned by the member since he is appointed?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Mr. Anderson was able to sell cashew-nut through the Trade Agent.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Do the Government khow that Mr. Anderson, even years before that, was conducting business with American firms? Can the Government give out any advantage gained to Travancoreans by putting themselves in communication with him?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Mr. Anderson was finding out markets for cashew-nuts only in America. But the Trade Agent was able to introduce it in India.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know from the member whether the Trade Agent was able to find out any markets for our products in India and if so the date of the communication for such an order?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): The Trade Agent has reported to me that he is trying to find out a market for cashew-nut in Bombay.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): The answer is not clear. The real thing I want to know is whether Mr. Anderson has reported to the member or to the Government that he was able to make any greater gain out of the transactions newly discovered.

PRESIDENT: The misfortune in this case is that your questions are rather lengthy and therefore the member giving the answer catches one or two words here and there. If you want clear and explicit answers you will do well to put small and clear questions.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Can the member give the House the name of any Travancore merchant who has assured the Government, or for that matter the member, that he has been able to make some gain out of the business carried through this man?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): That includes the name of Mr. Anderson.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I am sorry; any Travancoreans?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Mr. Sridharan of Paravoor of Sri Krishna Vilasam Coir Works.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Then, is the member basing his information upon any written records supplied by Mr Sridharan?

PRESIDENT: How can Government know that?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): He gets reports from the Trade Agent—

PRESIDENT: You mean, on the strength of the report of the Trade Agent?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Yes, Sir. Then may I know.....

PRESIDENT: No more questions. You have already had a number of questions. I shall have to stop any further questions.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): One more question, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Has it come to the notice of Government that there is a prevalent complaint amongst the merchants that the articles sent to this Trade Agent are unaccepted by the Trade Agent and that many of them have been returned?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): I have received one or two complaints from merchants and I have asked for his explanation and am awaiting the same.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know when was that complaint received and when was he asked to submit his explanation?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): That was about 3 weeks back.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know from the member what has the agency to do with the Development Department in the matter of finding markets for Travancore produce?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): No special agency is established. Whenever the Trade Agent wants any help from any of the Development Departments he writes here and we give whatever help we could.

PRESIDENT: What he means is, with whom did he directly correspond?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): With the Director of Industries.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know whether Government have directed the Trade Agent to make a report of the work done by him to Government and have they received, so far, any report from the Trade Agent?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Yes, Sir; one or two reports have been received.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Will the member be pleased to give me the date when such a report was received?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): I have not got the files before me to give the exact date.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know whether Government have given to the Trade Agent special directions regarding the work he has to do in Bombay?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): No special directions were given except that he should find markets for the Travancore produce in Bombay.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): With regard to the finding out of markets for our Travancore products, may I know from the member, whether our Trade Agent has discovered America? (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: You know how to discover America.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The member answered that the Trade Agent in the course of discovering markets for our produce has discovered America as a market for our articles. I say that cashew-nuts are being largely exported to America and therefore it was that I asked whether the Trade Agent has discovered America as a market.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Directr of Industries*): He is our Trade Agent in India.

PRESIDENT: The horizon does not extend up to America; he is Trade Agent in India.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from Government whether they will be pleased to lay on the table a report of the work done by the Trade Agent?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): The report, Sir, is confidential.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Am I to understand that, whether the happy fact of finding new markets for the various articles brought and sold is a mather of strict confidence and one that should not be divulged to this House?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): I stated, only the report is confidential and not the articles actually bought or sold.

MR. K. KUNJKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know the contents of the report, Sir? I should like to get some information on that and see that the report is placed before the House.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether Government have instructed the Trade Agent to send up periodical reports?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): No special instructions have been given to him like that. He sends the report once in two or three months.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): When did he send up the last report? What is the date of the last report which the member has received?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): I have not got the actual date before me now, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Refer to your memory and say how long it is since you have received the report.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): About two or three months back.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Now, is the Director aware of the whareabouts of the Trade Agent?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): He is now in Bombay.

PRESIDENT: Not only in Bombay, but he is moving about everywhere.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Is there any proposal to send him to Calcutta?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): No proposal to send him to Calcutta; but for finding markets for the products of Travancore he is expected to visit various places in North India including Calcutta and try to introduce Travancore products in Calcutta.

MR A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Then, does the member hold that he has not done anything like that till now?

PRESIDENT: You mean in Calcutta?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Yes. Sir.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): His activities have till now been confined to Bombay and he visited Calcutta also lately.

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